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December 17, 2018

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### Call to Prayer

God of our Advents, once again we enter this season of waiting when we cry out “Come, come Lord Jesus.” We wait for so many things, but deep within our hearts, we wait for the coming of your kingdom of peace and justice, of compassion and love for all peoples.

God of all peoples, today, we pray especially for all those forced to move because of climate-related events, such as droughts, floods, hurricanes, and tsunamis. May they find security, opportunity, and welcome in their new homes.

### Reading

Climate change is a global problem with grave implications: environmental, social, economic, political and for the distribution of goods. It represents one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day. Its worst impact will probably be felt by developing countries in coming decades. Many of the poor live in areas particularly affected by phenomena related to warming, and their means of subsistence are largely dependent on natural reserves and ecosystemic services such as agriculture, fishing and forestry. They have no other financial activities or resources which can enable them to adapt to climate change or to face natural disasters, and their access to social services and protection is very limited. ... There has been a tragic rise in the number of migrants seeking to flee from the growing poverty caused by environmental degradation. They are not recognized by international conventions as refugees; they bear the loss of the lives they have left behind, without enjoying any legal protection whatsoever. Sadly, there is widespread indifference to such suffering, which is even now taking place throughout our world. Our lack of response to these tragedies involving our brothers and sisters points to the loss of that sense of responsibility for our fellow men and women upon which all civil society is founded. – *Laudato Si'*, 25

### Prayer

Who will listen to the cries of the poor –  
To the hopes and needs of those seeking a better life?  
***Who will listen if we don't?***

Who will speak so their voices will be heard –  
So the wisdom and aspirations of migrant peoples will be heeded?  
***Who will speak if we don't?***

Who will see Christ in our brothers and sisters – in those who reveal new and unique aspects of God's love as they seek to make a home with us?  
***Who will see Christ if we don't?***

Who will be the hands and feet of Christ – the hands that heal and nurture, and the feet that “bring good news?”  
***Who will be Love if we aren't?***

## Story (Optional)

### *James from South Sudan*

I left my home country, Sudan (now South Sudan) when I was about 15 years old. I left mainly because I was searching for a safer environment for me to study without the daily fear of getting bombed or weighed down by responsibilities a child shouldn't bear. When I left, I had no idea that the place I was headed to would be a refugee camp and that I'd be referred to as a refugee instead of my name or my nationality. ... I



eventually got to leave Kakuma refugee camp for Canada through a university scholarship program I hard-earned. As much as most Canadians are well informed and welcoming people, a few still have insufficient knowledge about refugees. When I came here, I learnt how some people perceive refugees as vulnerable people that only get by through mercies not merits. ... I believe the story of everyone who is or was once a refugee entails resilience and I bring this to every country I go to, including here in Canada. My life inspires so many people that I encounter. More so, I bring different insights and experiences that are invaluable to the community I'm in. Currently, I am working on a solar-powered drip Irrigation System Project that is intended to help reduce food insecurity especially during the dry season by enabling communities to irrigate their farms. Once this pilot project takes off in Tonj, we will replicate it in other villages to help reduce hunger and malnutrition, alleviate poverty and resolve protracted inter-communal conflicts over limited resources and provide jobs to many jobless young people. I believe this will be my first step to give back to the positive transformation of South Sudan's society which will ultimately contribute to a safer world.

(Source: <http://iamamigrant.org/stories/canada/james>)

### Time for Reflection/Sharing

Consider listening to [Rune of Hospitality](#) as you reflect. Click the link to listen. (See Day 1 for lyrics.)

### Suggested Action

Today, [learn more about climate change](#) and resolve to live more sustainably ([click here for ideas about changes you can make](#)).

### Closing Prayer

God of the journey, God of the traveler, draw near to us. Fill us with the Spirit's desire to shape a future full of hope for our brothers and sisters who are strangers in this land. Give us the courage to open the doors of our hearts and our country to our neighbors, and give us the grace to build a society of justice and compassion.

We pray for our legislators, as they craft new immigration legislation – may they find the wisdom and courage to enact policies that do justice for our country and for those who would migrate here.

Move us to new frontiers as we remember how you crossed every border between Divinity and humanity to make your home with us. Remind us of Blessed Theresa and all those who gave all they had so that the immigrants in America might have better lives. Move us to new frontiers, for we are all migrants journeying with you and one another toward your Kingdom.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

